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THE PROPOSITION.

A new Song on the Union.

AIR, "PADDY WHACK."

I.

IN debt up to the ears, ſore perplexed and tormented,
John Bull, in a ſad plight, ſat ſcratching his pate;
His profligate courſes too late he repented,
And, trembling, awaited his well deſerved fate:
Engaged at all angles
In quarrels and wrangles,
And ſcarce a whole coat had he left to his back,
Of trade, manufacture,
Of caſh and character
Bereft, and a bankrupt—unfortunate Jack!

II.

Ambitious to frighten and plunder his neighbours,
He quarrell'd when he could not quietly cheat;
But he reap'd, at long run, the juſt fruit of his labours,
And loſt, by his folly, his *Yankee* eſtate:
His good *German couſins*
Had *fleeced* him by *dozens*,
And heaps of misfortunes had brought on his back;
Until the bluff bully,
Had proved a duped cully—
A deſperate bankrupt—unfortunate Jack!

III.

His fortune to mend by ſome new ſpeculation,
A project he planned, as a partner to take
An old friend, who long ſuffered by John's peculation,
And now in his *ruin* muſt *kindly partake*:
Stout *Paddy O'Blunder*,
That bold ſon of thunder,
Who John's ſturdy foes did ſo oft' ſoundly *whack*—
His fortune muſt tender—
His birth-right ſurrender—
The credit to prop of unfortunate Jack.

IV.

The project John liked—but then how to effect it—
Or who to bold Patt ſuch a queſtion dare *pop*;
For, that he ſhould with high indignation reject it,
John "would not for all the beſt ſhoes in his ſhop:"
He ſpoke to *Will Pitt*,
Who a method ſoon hit,
And *Will* tipt the hint to his friend *Neddy C*——;
"Patt's *guardians*," ſaid *Neddy*,
"Muſt *finger* the *ready*,
"And there's not the leaſt fear but their *Ward* they will *took*."

V.

"Buſt firſt we muſt form ſome ſpecious pretences;
"Amongſt Paddy's tenants we'll kick up a row—
"Oppoſe one to t'other, fight brother 'gainſt brother,
"And drive the whole clan from the loom and the plough.
"Thus ſplit into faction,
"And torn by diſtraction,
"The landlord will mortgage his title for peace;
"But, if not—the next *ſeſſion*
"We'll *force* a poſſeſſion,
"And bribe Paddy's guardians with penſion and place."

VI.

So the row was kickt up, and was ſcarcely well over,
When *Ned* ſaid he'd "ſtrike while the iron was hot,"
"And not give the *ſavages* time to recover,
"Leaſt all his fine projects ſhould ſoon go to pot:"
Then his pen Neddy took,
And he ſcribbled a book,
'Pon my troth 'twas enough for to make a dog laugh;
He promiſed ſuch wonders
To this land of blunders,
Forgetting "*old birds* can't be thus caught with *chaff*."

VII.

"Dear Paddy," ſays he, you'll excuſe my obtruſion;
"A project I have to improve your eſtate,
"And prevent from this moment all future confuſion
"Between your *mamma* and *Dame Britain* ſo *great*:
"As ſome how or other,
"In love with your Mother,
"The *briſk widow* ERIN, *John Bull* is involved,
"In fond UNION to blend,
"He will now condeſcend,
"And his fortune with her's to conjoin he's reſolved."

VIII.

"You may vaunt of thick blood, and Mileſian deſcendance—
"Of rights, conſtitution, and ſuch kind of ſtuff;
"Mr. Bull's well aware of your *ſtate of dependance*—
"Refuſal may render his temper quite rough:
"In quiet ſubjection
"You'll have his protection,
"Your *learning* and *taſte* he will greatly extend!!!
"Your *big wigs* and *bay bobs*
"Make *Baſhaws* and *Nabobs*,
"Your *barbarous manners* and *morals* he'll mend!!!!"

IX.

"The ſweet cockney lingo he'll teach you to gabble,
"*Weal, Winnegar, Victuals, this here* and *that there*;"
"To ſwindlers and bruiſers convert your rude rabble,
"And teach them, like *Britons*, to *blaſt* and to *ſwear*:
"Your merchants, ſtock jobbers,
"Of each other robbers,
"Through his ſhrew'd inſtructions ſhall quickly become;
"And a *bankrupt commiſſion*,
"Beneath *his* tuition,
"Shall prove the *ſhort cut* for acquiring a *plumb* *."

X.

"Apt gamblers he'll make all your fine folks of faſhion—
"And ſharping at *Faro* ſhall be quite the ton;
"In your coy bluſhing dames he'll inſpire the fierce paſſion,
"Your daughters and wives he'll inſtruct in *Crim. Con.*
"Falſe notions of honor,
"Let Arthur O'Connor,
"And preachers of *his* caſt, excite in the raſh;
"But pill'ry and gibbet
"I'll plainly exhibit,
"Are only diſgraceful to rogues without caſh."

XI.

"For ſwindling and ſharping, though caſt in vile durance,
"To *Botany* ſent, or at whipping-poſt banged;
"By *blazes* and *ſhipwrecks* to cheat at inſurance,
"For perjury cropt, or for forgery hanged;
"If he makes but the *Spaniſh*,
"Diſgrace ſhall ſoon vaniſh,
"From poor Mr. Bull and his family name;
"And, as peers of the nation,
"His next generation
"Shall figure in ill-gotten ſplendour and fame."

XII.

"So now, Mr. Blunder, you've heard my propoſal,
"And if you're but wiſe my advice you will take;
"Surrender your mother to ſquire Bull's diſpoſal,
"Or elſe he'll uſe *force*—for you know he's a *rake*;
"Beſide, I've to mention,
"Your clergy he'll penſion,
"Your Placemen, your Panders and P—ps compenſate;
"And if you'll come over,
"You'll live quite in clover—
"Your fortune we'll mortgage to clear John's eſtate."

XIII.

Honeſt *Patt*, ſcarce ſurpriſed at th' inſulting propoſal,
Contemptuouſly ſmiled at this offer from John;
"*Dame Erin*," ſays he, "ſhall reject the eſpouſal
"So long as her honor depends on her ſon.
"Though by promiſe and bribe
"You corrupt the baſe tribe,
"Who her rights would betray in a project ſo black,
"Still ſingle ſhe'll tarry,
"And ne'er deign to marry
"That deſperate bankrupt—unprincipled Jack!"

XIV.

"So his kindneſs pray keep for ſome German relation;
"Nor think me, though good-natured, quite ſuch a fool,
"When I ſeek for *good morals* and *civilization*,
"Depend—to *John Bull* I ſhall not go to ſchool.
"As to '*forcing poſſeſſion*'—
"Why—that's John's *profeſſion*;
"A trade for which oft he has paid very dear:
"In attempting a *rape*
"He may hope to eſcape—
"But *might chance* to retreat with a *flea in his ear*."

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